



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
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RURAL DEVELOPMENT HELPS SINGLE MOTHER PURCHASE HOME IN BISMARCK/MANDAN AREA

"National Homeownership celebrated with local family."

Mandan, June 27, 2006....Clare Carlson, State Director for USDA Rural Development in North Dakota, and other Rural Development staff members, today visited the home of Lisa Salazar, and her family to personally congratulate and honor them in recognition of June as National Homeownership Month.



"This homeowner, with her hard work and our efforts, together, helps President Bush's Five Star Commitment on increasing minority homeownership throughout the country," Carlson said. "Our congratulations go out to Ms. Salaza for enduring all challenges and obstacles she faced while achieving the dream of homeownership."

Being recognized today, along with Ms. Salaza, is Leonard Berger of LB Homes, Inc. who was instrumental in making this dream possible for Lisa and her family.

Lisa Salazar, a single mother with two young children, lived and rented an apartment in Mandan for many years. Wanting a home of her own, and for her family, Lisa qualified as a first-time homebuyer utilizing Rural Development's 502 Direct Loan program. It won't be long until Lisa and her children move into their newly constructed home. Not only is Lisa excited about enjoying the "dream of homeownership," but also that her children will have a safe place to live and play.

Later in the morning, Gail Fiechtner, Dakota Community Bank, Bismarck, will be recognized for her leadership in assisting 45 families achieve the dream of home ownership this past year.

The two events are part of a series of events held throughout the nation by USDA Rural Development in celebration of June as National Homeownership Month, and President George W. Bush's initiative to increase homeownership opportunities.

In Fiscal Year 2005, USDA Rural Development provided over **\$79.8 million** in loan and grant financing to North Dakota citizens.

USDA Rural Development is the lead federal entity for rural economic and community development needs. It administers financial and technical assistance through a network of state Rural Development offices, various non-profit and educational institutional partners, and its national office.

Committed to the future of rural communities.

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).

More information on these and other rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

Certificate of Appreciation

Awarded to



***Gail Fiechtner
Dakota Community Bank***

*For providing loan assistance to eligible customers of Rural Development's
502 Guaranteed Loan Program resulting in \$5,441,623 of guaranteed
funding enabling 45 individuals/families to realize the dream of "Homeownership."*

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Certificate of Appreciation

Awarded to



Leonard Berger
L/B Homes, Inc.

For effectively promoting Rural Development's Housing Programs through newly constructed and affordable homes by assisting applicants with loan applications and credit counseling helping families achieve the dream of "Homeownership."

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